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# PROGRAM OF WORK FOR POULTRY CLUBS

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EXTENSION DEPARTMENT OF THE  
MISSISSIPPI AGRICULTURAL & MECHANICAL COLLEGE  
Cooperating with the States Relations Service of the  
U. S. Department of Agriculture

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# Program of Work for Poultry Clubs

## PROGRAM OF WORK FOR FIRST YEAR

To be promoted to second year of Poultry Work, the member must raise and retain at least five standard bred pullets and one cockerel. She must also meet other general and specific requirements of the Girls' Home Demonstration Club as laid down in the poultry project she is operating.

What first year members should do at home each month:

### January—

1. Set at least 15 standard bred eggs.
2. Make or have made one good brood coop with slatter or wire covered run.
3. Secure Circular 13, "Brood Coops and Appliances," and Farmers' Bulletin 585, "Natural and Artificial Incubation of Hen's Eggs," and Poultry Record Book from County Home Demonstration Agent and study them.

### February—

1. Set at least 15 standard bred eggs.
2. Make or have made one good brood coop with run.
3. Study Bulletin 585 again and subscribe to a good poultry journal, if possible, and read it carefully.
4. Post your poultry record book.

### March—

1. Set at least 15 standard bred eggs.
2. Make shallow drinking fount for baby chicks.
3. Dust sitting hen with Sodium Fluoride or some other good lice powder.
4. Ask your agent for Dept. Circular 16, "Lice, Mites, and Cleanliness," and for Farmers' Bulletin 957, "Important Poultry Diseases," also for Dept. Circular 20, "Common Poultry Diseases," and study these.
5. Post your record book.

### April—

1. Spray, whitewash, or paint the interior of the poultry house, the coops, nests, etc., at your home or have someone to do this. Complete hatching this month.
2. Make or have made a "help yourself" feed hopper for your three or four weeks' old chicks.
3. Make a mash to put in this hopper and use it constantly.
4. Ask your agent to give you Dept. Circular 17, "Management of Growing Chicks," and study closely directions for making mash and hopper.
5. Post your record book.

### May—

1. Dust all mature birds at your home for lice. Use Sodium Fluoride if possible.
2. Spray or paint again to keep down mites.
3. Keep droppings carefully collected throughout this month and all hot weather.
4. If you have cockerels of slow, runty growth, fatten them and use on home table or sell as broilers while prices are high.
5. Ask your agent for Dept. Circular 16, "Lice, Mites and Cleanliness," and for Farmers' Bulletin 801, "Mites and Lice on Poultry." Study these and look at the pictures.
6. Post your record book.



## June—

1. Preserve at least 2 dozen eggs in water glass for use next winter when they will be high again.
2. Provide shade for your growing chicks in some way.
3. Provide dust boxes for them.
4. Spray house for mites again.
5. Wash and scald drinking vessels frequently, and use in the drinking water enough permanganate of potash to color it.
6. Fatten all except two or three of the largest of your February hatched cockerels and eat or sell.
7. Ask your agent for Dept. Circular 15, "Preserving Eggs," and study it before preserving eggs.
8. Post your record book.

## July—

1. Keep up the fight on mites and lice by spraying, scalding and powdering as before.
2. Eat or sell young birds that do not seem to grow fast.
3. Ask your agent for Farmers' Bulletins 801 and 528 and study them.
4. Post your record book.
5. Feed a small amount of sulphur in the mash.

## August—

1. Plant burr clover, a mixture of rye, oats, and rape, or wheat and oats for winter grazing. This will mean healthy birds, more and cheaper eggs for you to use, and high priced eggs to sell.
2. Sprout oats for immediate use if grasses are tough.
3. Finish culling out undesirable birds.
4. Have repairs made on old poultry house and have new one built if necessary.
5. Ask your agent for A. and M. College Circular, "Mississippi Poultry House," and for blue print for same.
6. Post your record book.

## September—

1. Plant green feed if it could not be done in August.
2. Look after repairs and new building not already complete.
3. Have breeding yard made ready for next year before weather gets bad.
4. Get ready to advertise your good birds by exhibiting them at the school or community fair.
5. Ask your agent for Extension leaflet, "Disqualification of Birds," and study your birds to see they do not have disqualifying marks.
6. Post your record book.

## October—

1. Ask your agent for your promotion card and for a new record book to begin on Nov. 1. Your first one should cover the month of October.
2. Prepare a coop to exhibit your birds in at the county fair and advertise them by carrying them in on the appointed day.
3. Finish building your breeding yard if it was not completed in September.
4. Join a County Poultry Breeders' Association if you have an opportunity to do so. Ask your agent to help organize one.
5. Ask your agent for Farmers' Bulletins 806 and 898, "Standard varieties, American and Mediterranean Classes."
6. Post your record book in full, including summary for year, and get two reputable citizens to verify it by signing their names on the last page, then hand in to your agent.



## November—

1. Select your best birds and consult your mother and your agent about buying a new cock to mate with your best pullets in your breeding yard.
2. Make or have made a feed hopper for dry mash for laying hens.
3. Put your pullets on a good laying ration.
4. Ask your agent for Dept. Circular 13, unless you already have it, and for Farmers' Bulletin 1067, "Feeding Hens for Egg Production," and follow the suggestions in them for feeding.
5. Begin keeping your egg record in the back of the new record book for your second year work.

## December—

1. If you have raised five nice cockerels and not enough nice pullets, ask your agent to let you sell cockerels and buy pullets with your money so you can secure your promotion card before January 1.
2. Advertise hatching eggs and your surplus good breeders' in a farm paper of wide circulation.
3. Repair old brood coops and make at least one new one.
4. Mate your breeding stock and make at least one new one.
4. Mate your breeding stock so as to have eggs for January hatching.
5. Ask your agent for a good poultry journal and subscribe for it.

### PROGRAM OF WORK FOR SECOND YEAR

Requirements for promotion to third year work: raise and retain at home at least fifteen pullets and one cockerel for Farm Project Division and raise and retain at least two pullets for each member of the family for Backyard Division.

What second year members should do at home each month:

## January—

1. Set at least thirty standard bred eggs this month if possible.
2. Build or have built brood coops to receive baby chicks.
3. Sprout oats for green feed, indoors if necessary.
4. Advertise "Hatching Eggs" in a farm paper of wide circulation and order cartons or baskets for shipment of same.
5. Hold your "hatching eggs" at a temperature of 50 degrees to 60 degrees F. before incubation to insure better hatches. Ship only fresh eggs that you have turned over frequently.
6. Look over bulletins and circulars given you last January by your county agent.
7. Ask your agent for Farmers' Bulletins 624, "Natural and Artificial Incubation of Hens' Eggs," 889, "Backyard Poultry Keeping," and for 1067, "Feeding Hens for Egg Production."
8. Post your record book in full.

## February—

1. Set at least thirty standard bred eggs this month.
2. Continue to advertise hatching eggs.
3. Feed your laying hens heavily.
4. Ask your agent for Farmers' Bulletin 767, "Goose Raising," and decide whether you have a profitable place for geese.

## March—

1. Set at least thirty standard bred eggs this month.
2. Test eggs to see how many are fertile on the 7th and 14th days.
3. Make a scratch pen for your January hatched chickens.
4. Dust sitting hens for lice.
5. Ask your agent for Farmers' Bulletin 585, "Natural and Artificial Incubation for Hens' Eggs," and study it again unless you have it on hand already.
6. Post your record book in full.



## April—

1. Candle some market eggs.
2. Make two grades of market eggs.
3. Secure a customer for market eggs and supply her with the best grade of eggs regularly each week. Deliver at her home directly or else ship by parcel post.
4. Ask your agent for Dept. Circular 15, "Preserving Eggs," (This shows how to candle eggs), and for Farmers' Bulletin 830, "Shipping Eggs by Parcel Post."
5. Post your record book in full.
6. Put on your spraying and cleaning campaign.
7. Complete all hatching this month.

## May—

1. Dust your mature birds for lice.
2. Spray or paint to keep down mites.
3. Make or use wet mash for fattening surplus cockerels for home table or for market.
4. Produce infertile eggs after May 15th if possible and continue to market eggs.
5. Keep droppings carefully collected.
6. Begin to cull out runts, etc.
7. Write to Bureau of Animal Industry, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for Bulletin 140, "Fattening Poultry." Send 10c to pay for it.

## June—

1. Continue to market infertile eggs.
2. Preserve in water glass four dozen eggs for winter use.
3. Spray house, etc., for winter.
4. Provide shade and dust boxes for chicks.
5. Wash and scald drinking vessels.
6. Fatten young culls for table or market.
7. Market surplus stock by express shipment or locally.
8. Post your record book in full.

## July—

1. Continue production and marketing of infertile eggs.
2. Gather eggs twice daily.
3. Keep up fight on mites and lice.
4. Eat or market birds of slow growth.
5. Post your record book in full.
6. Write to Bureau Animal Industry, Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for bulletin 160, "Care of the Farm Egg," price 10c each.

## August—

1. Examine your hens from standpoint of egg production and sell the poor producers.
2. Continue producing and marketing infertile eggs if possible.
3. Plant green feed for winter grazing.
4. Sprout oats for immediate use if grasses have grown tough.
5. Finish culling out undesirable young birds.
6. Make repairs on house and build new Mississippi Poultry House if more room is needed.
7. Ask your county agent for Dept. Circular 18, "Culling for Eggs and Market."
8. Post your record book.

## September—

1. Plant green feed if weather and soil conditions did not permit this in August.
2. Complete repairs on building.
3. Have breeding yard made ready for next year before weather gets bad.
4. Advertise your birds by taking them to a school or community fair.



5. Study your birds to find those with best markings and best types.
6. Ask your agent for Extension Leaflet, "Disqualifications, General and Specific."
7. Post your record book.

October—

1. Prepare a coop in which to exhibit your birds at the county fair or exhibit. This is a big advertisement of your stock.
2. Finish your breeding yards if they were not completed in September.
3. Ask your agent to arrange for a meeting of the County Poultry Breeders' Association and attend it.
4. Ask your agent for your promotion card and a new record book on Exhibit or Rally Day.
5. Complete your record book by posting to date, filling out summary page, and getting signatures of two reputable citizens, and then submit to your agent.

November—

1. Put your hens and pullets on a good laying mash and let them have all they will eat; winter eggs pay.
2. Ask your mother and your agent about buying a new cock to head your breeding yard for next year.
3. Feed your pullets heavily and force them for winter egg production before the weather gets too cold.
4. Re-read "Feeding Hens for Egg Production," Farmers' Bulletin 1067, given you last year.
5. Begin keeping your new egg record in your new record book for your third year work.
6. Ask your agent for Farmers' Bulletin 682, "Simplest Trapnest for Poultry," and prepare to trapnest your flock if possible.
7. Post your record book.
8. Advertise your surplus good breeding stock in a farm paper of wide circulation.

December—

1. Advertise hatching eggs and surplus breeding stock again in same paper.
2. Repair old brood coops and make new ones.
3. Renew your subscription to your poultry journal.
4. Mate breeding stock so as to have eggs for January hatching.
5. Use hens of proved ability to lay in your best breeding pen. Mate them with the best cockerel you have or can get.
6. Feed your breeders well and your laying flock better to force egg production.
7. Ask your county home demonstration agent where to buy a good Breed Book" of the kind of birds you produce and get it for study.

### PROGRAM OF WORK FOR THIRD YEAR

To be promoted to fourth year work, the club member must raise and retain at least thirty pullets of a standard bred variety, maintaining a breeding pen of eight to twelve birds, if operating the Farm Project, and raise at least two standard bred pullets for each member of the family, if operating the Backyard Project.

What third year members should do at home each season:

January-February-March:

1. Continue the same work as for first and second years, but increase the amount of incubation to at least one hundred eighty eggs for these three months if possible.
2. Keep the hens on a good laying ration.
3. New reference: Farmers' Bulletin 1052, "Standard Varieties of Chickens," Part III.



## April-May-June—

1. Continue same work as for first and second year, but increase quantity of eggs and poultry sold on market.
2. As the flock has become larger give careful attention to increase in amount of feed for both young and old stock. Well fed birds are the ones that pay.
3. New reference: Farmers' Bulletin 697, "Duck Raising," and 849, "Capon and Caponizing;" also Bureau of Chemistry Circular 6, "How to Kill and Bleed Market Poultry."

## July-August-September—

1. Continue same work as former years but add study of the new references.
2. References: Poultry Bulletins from other State Agricultural Colleges, such as Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; Oregon College of Agriculture, Corvallis, Oregon; University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin.

## October-November-December—

1. Continue same work as in first and second years.
2. Advertise surplus stock in farm paper of wide circulation, or in good poultry journal.
3. Help in every way possible to make your community and county poultry shows a success.
4. Reference: "Standard of Perfection," published by American Poultry Association and obtainable through any reputable Poultry Journal.

## PROGRAM OF WORK FOR FOURTH YEAR

To receive a certificate after fourth year work under the Farm Project the club member must raise and retain at home at least forty-five standard bred pullets and maintain at least one breeding pen or yard of eight to twelve birds; under the Backyard Project, she must raise and retain two pullets for each member of the family.

What fourth year members should do at home each season:

## January-February-March—

1. Continue same work as in former years, but increase incubation to 300 eggs if possible.
2. Study Extension Bulletin 5, "Helps for Mississippi Poultry Raisers," by E. P. Clayton.
3. Enlist in egg laying contest.

## April-May-June—

1. Continue same work as for other years.
2. Study Farmers' Bulletin 574, "Poultry House Construction."
3. Continue in egg laying contest.

## July-August-September—

1. Continue same work as for former years.
2. Study Bureau of Animal Industry Circular 176, "A System of Poultry Accounting," price five cents.

## October-November-December

1. Continue same work as in former years.
2. If your former success warrants it make the poultry work a business.
3. If you are not a member already, join the County Poultry Breeders' Association.
4. Study Dept. Bulletin 21, "Commercial Fattening of Poultry," price ten cents.
5. Study if possible, "Productive Poultry Husbandry," by Harry R. Lewis, published by J. B. Lippincott Co., Philadelphia, Pa., price \$2.00, and "The Mating and Breeding of Poultry", by Lamon and Slocum, published by Orange Judd Co., New York, N. Y.
6. Secure your certificate of proficiency for four years of creditable poultry work.